

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an engine cowling for an outboard engine that has a lower motor cover and an upper motor cover with a top cap, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting an engine with a particular starter;

surrounding at least a portion of the outboard engine with a lower motor cover;

selecting an upper motor cover;

selecting a top cap from a ~~plurality~~family of top caps, each member of the family being formed with an identical lower edge and ~~each~~the selected member of the family being designed specifically configured to accommodate the particular starter of the engine;

securing the selected top cap to the upper motor cover ~~by attaching~~including placing the lower edge of the top cap next to an upper edge of the upper motor cover; and

mounting the selected upper motor cover on the lower motor cover by mating a lower edge of the upper motor cover with an upper edge of the lower motor cover.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of securing the upper motor cover to the lower motor cover by latching the lower motor cover on the upper motor cover.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of selecting an engine size from a family of engines.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the upper motor cover is selected from a ~~plurality~~family of upper motor covers each formed with an identical upper edge and an identical lower edge.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the ~~plurality~~family of upper motor covers includes an upper motor cover specifically configured to accommodate a two-cylinder engine and an upper motor cover specifically configured to accommodate a three-cylinder engine.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the starter is one of an electric starter and a manual pull starter.

7. (Currently Amended) An engine cowling, comprising:

an upper motor cover having an upper edge;

a top cap selected from a family of top caps, each ~~with a different configuration~~member of the family being specifically configured to accommodate a particular type of engine starter; and

wherein each top cap of the family ~~having~~has a lower edge configured to mate with the upper edge of the upper motor cover.

8. (Currently Amended) The engine cowling of claim 7, further comprising:

a lower motor cover having an upper edge;

wherein the upper motor cover is selected from a family of upper motor covers, each ~~with a different configuration~~being specifically configured to accommodate a particular engine size; and

each upper motor cover of the family having a lower edge configured to mate with the upper edge of the lower motor cover.

9. (Currently Amended) The engine cowling of claim 7, wherein:

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the family of top caps includes at least two top caps, the different configuration selected from the group comprising an electric starter and a manual pull starter.